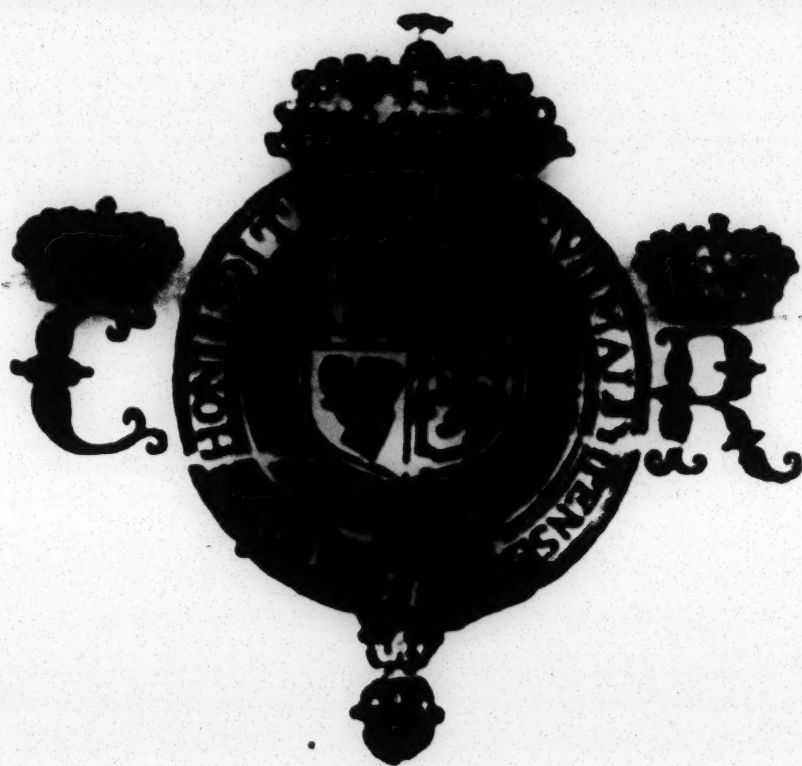


HIS MAJESTIES  
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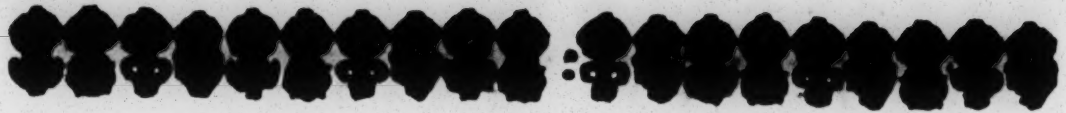
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EDINBURGH,  
Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the King's  
most Excellent Majesty, 1663.





HIS MAJESTIES  
GRACIOUS  
LETTER,  
TO HIS  
PARLIAMENT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.  
CHARLES R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,



And we have just cause to account it one of the great blessings of Almighty God upon Our Person and Government, that you the Members of Our Parliament of that Our ancient Kingdom of Scotland, have so unanimously joyned in rescinding all pretended Parliaments and Acts, derogatory to Our Authority, and in the making so many laudable Laws, whereby the Church and State are now again settled upon their proper and solid foundations; Peace and Order established, Laws restored to their former lustre and vigour; Our Authority and the Royal Privileges of Our Crown transmitted to Us from so many Accessions, now fully asserted and clearly vindicated, and the seeds of rebellion



rebellion rooted out : By all which, Truth and  
 Righteousness, Peace and Plenty, are, by Gods  
 blessing, like to be the lasting fruits of your la-  
 bours ; So we have thought it fit, at the be-  
 ginning of this Session of Our Parliament,  
 again to signify unto you, Our just esteem of  
 that eminent Piety, Loyalty, Prudence and Af-  
 fection to Our Person, Crown and Dignity,  
 which you have by those excellent public Acts  
 manifested to the world : And therefore, we do  
 again return you Our most hearty thanks,  
 which we do desire may be recorded to posterity.  
 We shall not enumerate the particulars, for that  
 were to recite all the Laws of general concern,  
 enacted in the first Session of this present Par-  
 liament, and some in this last Session : Only  
 we shall let you know, That we have observed  
 all along, in the framing of these Laws, a most  
 obsequious compliance with whatsoever hath  
 been represented to you by Our last Commis-  
 sioner to be Our intention, or what might be  
 acceptable to Us, and that to a degree that could  
 not but proceed from an unparalleld affection to  
 Our Person and Service, and an entire defe-  
 rence to Our Judgment, in every point : In-  
 somuch, that although some few things have  
 been carried on, and even past, and Our Con-  
 sent given to them, without Our knowledge,  
 and very far from Our intention ; which, upon  
 deliberate consideration, we find to be of quite  
 another strain, than these other excellent Laws,  
 which we so deservedly applaud ; yet we can-  
 not attribute your concurrence therein to any  
 thing, but that affection and deference we have  
 mentioned, though in the contrivance and promo-  
 ting of them, some sinister and siddy courses  
 have

have been taken; whereby the loyal affections of well meaning persons have been led into absurdities, which, if not redressed, may prove a pernicious example of dangerous consequence, as tending to the dishonour of Our Parliament, and to the subversion of all Justice and good Government. Of this nature, and indeed the thing which ~~we~~ mainly insist on, was that strange Act for incapacitating Twelve, transmitted to Us, sealed (and which, we have so ordered, that it shall never more come to light) and the yet stranger way, of voting it, even by Bill-lets: A way never before practised under Monarchy, nor never heard of under any Government, as to punishments, in such a manner as this was, where the persons concerned were so far from being accused, heard, or upon evidence condemned, that their names were never made known to your selves, who so sentenced them. But because the consent ~~we~~ gave to the incapacitating some few, seems to have been made use of as the ground to this, with which ~~we~~ are with so much reason most unsatisfied; ~~we~~ shall let you know clearly, how both ~~we~~ and you were abused in this particular. Before the last Session of Our Parliament, ~~we~~ did, by Our Instructions to Our last Commissioner, declare Our pleasure concerning fines to be imposed by Our Parliament, both as to the crimes, for which ~~we~~ did allow fining, and as to the proportions; And this moderate way of raising fines (which ~~we~~ intended to employ only for the relief of Our good Subjects, who had been great sufferers) was the only punishment ~~we~~ gave warrant for. ~~we~~ also commanded the Act of Pardon and Oblivion to be transmitted to



Us, before Our Royal Assent was given to the same, because We were desirous Our Self, to see Our Grace extended as large as We intended it: In obedience to which command, Our Commissioner dispatched to Us last Summer, a Gentleman with a Letter of Credit; he brought Us two draughts of an Act of Pardon and Oblivion, the one excepted only as to fines, the other excepted also as to incapacity from publick Trust, and this last he publicly owned to be the desire of Our Parliament (though We are since sufficiently informed, that incapacitating was never so much as heard of, in Our Parliament, till his return, he likewise earnestly pressed, in the name of Our Parliament, Our Consent, to the incapacitating some few of the most guilty, not exceeding twelve; To this, We at last Consented, and merely upon the account of gratifying the desire of so faithfull and so loyal a Parliament: Now, you can best judge whether you gave warrant for such a desire, as was made in your name; whether Our Consent so obtained, was represented as a command from Us; And whether it was made use of, as the rise and ground of this pernicious way of incapacitating by Billets; which as it had no colour of warrant from Us being far from Our knowledge, and yet further from Our intentions) So, We cannot but Declare, That We do esteem it contrary to Our Honour, to the honour, freedom, and gravity of Parliaments, to all former Practices, to common Justice, and highly derogatory to Our Authority and Dignity, as tending to the universal dissatisfaction of all Our good Subjects. For, if voting by Billets, and punishing in that way, shall be allowed,

allowed, no man is secure of his Honour, his  
 Estate, his Liberty, nor his Life: Persons of  
 greatest merit may be this way destroyed,  
 and even Our Officers of State, and those of  
 nearest relation to Us, may, by colour of Our  
 Authority, without Our knowledge, be torn  
 from Us, and exposed to infamy and ruin: And  
 because we are most confident, such things  
 were, and are, as far from your meaning and  
 intentions, as they are from Ours, and that  
 we have great reason to suspect, that Our  
 Name hath been abused, and many well-mean-  
 ing persons have been made believe, That  
 what was done would be acceptable to Us;  
 Therefore, for the vindicating Our Honour  
 and yours, we do, in the first place, earnestly  
 recommend it to you, to take speedy and exact  
 trial of the contrivance and carrying on of this  
 pretended Act of incapacitating by Billet, and  
 report the same to Us, that we may make  
 known to you Our further pleasure: And  
 then we are so confident of your justice, that  
 we are certainly perswaded, you will heartily  
 joyne in passing an new Act, for rescinding all  
 that relates to Billeting, with the Clauses  
 referring to it in the Act of Pardon and Ob-  
 lition, and in the Act of Fines; expressing  
 in the Narrative such grounds and reasons  
 as you shall find just and necessary; razing all  
 memory of it out of Our Records, and discharg-  
 ing all voting by Billet for the future. There  
 be some other Acts, in which, we doubt not,  
 you will concur with Our opinion, that they  
 also, have need to be amended: But, as to  
 these, we refer you to Our Commissioner,  
 who will assure you, that we believe your  
 consent



(4)  
consent to those things, with which we are  
no wayes satisfied, did proceed (as we have  
said) from your intire deference to Our judge-  
ment, and the belief, in most among you, that  
they would be acceptable to Us. So, expect-  
ing the continuance of that Zeal and Affection  
to Our Service, and the good of that Our  
Kingdom, of which we have had so many  
and large testimomes, we bid you very  
heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at ~~Whitehall~~, the fourth day of ~~June~~,  
one thousand six hundred and sixty three, and of  
Our Reign the fiftenth year.

By His Majesties Command,  
*LAUDERDAILL.*

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most Excellent Majesty, 1663.

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